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PREFACE.

WE now enter upon the XXXIVth. Volume of this Periodical work, and are glad of the opportunity to declare, that we do ſo with alacrity, from the encouragement the Public has been hitherto pleaſed to give it. A return of our ſincere thanks is hereby therefore made on this account; which, indeed, we acknowledge to be a conſtant duty incumbent on us: And, as we hope for a continuance of the ſame favours, we ſhall uſe our beſt endeavours to merit it, by diligence and a circumſpect attention in the choice of ſuch ſubjects as promiſe to afford the moſt rational entertainment.

The ſtate of the Times always requiring ſomething from us, we have calculated our FRONTISPIECE to coincide with that view. BRITANNIA, or the Tutelary Genius of England, under the form of the goddeſs LIBERTY, there appears, ſurrounded with the ſymbols, known to be characteriſtic of the ſpirit ſhe animates her true votaries with. The Lion couchant faithfully guards her ſhield, ſword, and ſpear; and his head, reclined againſt the ſtaff that holds up the Helmet of Freedom, ſhews how dear it is to him, and how dangerous it muſt be to rouſe his indignation, by an attempt to

deſpoil her of it. On her right hand, are emblems, in the oak, globe, compaſs, and books, expreſſive of the due cultivation of arts and ſciences, under her happy influence: On her left, is a proſpect of the ſea with ſhipping, and bales of merchandiſe on the ſhore, to denote the opulence of a free ſtate by trade and commerce. Before her, lie the Great Charter of our liberties and Hiſtory of our Conſtitution, with the trumpet of Fame to ſound the praiſes, and a crown of laurel to bind the temples of thoſe noble and ſteady Patriots, who generouſly ſtep forth to defend them. Her poſture is that of Meditation, on a digeſt of our Lex Terræ, or common law, which, by a ſenſe of interior conviction, ſhe prefers to all other forms of law, as by it the Engliſh ſpirit has always been anſwerable to the conſtitution, conſtantly repelling all inſidious attempts on liberty, and making an exact diſtinction between the reciprocal rights of Prince and People.

To corroborate theſe intereſting particulars, it will appear by the ſubſequent diſcourſe, that the precious depoſite of legal and conſtitutional liberty has been always guarded amongſt us with ſuch care, that every the leaſt attempt to deprive us of it gives an alarm; and that our attachment to it is ſo ſtrong and conſtant, that no artifice, no intrigue, no perverſion of Law and Goſpel, can induce us to part with it.

THE